

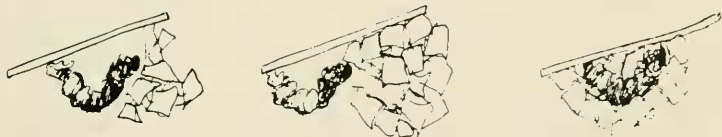
spread northwards. The most likely explanation is that it has always been resident in this part of Scotland but up until now has remained undiscovered.

If studied with an open mind many of the *Eupithecia*'s which are, after all, difficult to identify and easy to overlook, may prove to be much more widespread than is presently accepted.

Thanks are extended to Mr. M. Canham for operating the light trap at Rogart and for identifying all but the most unusual specimens and to Mr. B. Skinner for his comments on the distribution of *Eupithecia valerianata*. — ADRIAN M. RILEY, Entomology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

BREEDING SCHRANKIA COSTAESTRIGALIS STEPH.: PINION-STREAKED SNOUT. — A female of this moth taken here in my garden trap on the night of 22/23 August 1983 laid about 25 eggs. These hatched and the young larvae were given lettuce leaves, but after the first instar their rate of growth became noticeably slower. At this stage I had 19 first and second instar larvae, and decided to change their diet and try them with sliced runner beans, upon which G. M. Haggett had successfully reared its congener *S. taenialis* Hbn. (see Haggett, *Larvae of the British Lepidoptera Not Figured by Buckler*, 141). The result was that they fed well on these (including the small pink beans), and thenceforth grew very rapidly, which presented me with my next problem.

I noticed one or two full grown larvae hanging vertically from the top of the plastic container, spinning a few threads but doing nothing else apart from shrinking. Worried that they might need special conditions in which to pupate, I 'phoned Mr. Haggett who suggested I use small particles of vermiculite (obtainable from garden nurseries) from which to suspend themselves. Having no vermiculite, I decided to use woodwool mixed with tiny pieces of soft toilet tissue. Although this took time to prepare, the trouble was worthwhile as the larvae immediately suspended themselves from the woodwool and fixed the tiny pieces of tissue around themselves.



Consequently, all those larvae which formed proper cocoons in the manner described produced perfect insects, whereas from the larvae that were past the stage of making cocoons, nine in all, only one perfect moth emerged, three emerged crippled and five failed to emerge having dried up. So it would seem the cocoon retains some moisture content essential to the proper emergence of the perfect insect. — R. BELL, Northwood Lodge, Northwood Park, Sparsholt, Hampshire.